

A NEW TROPIDONOTUS FROM THE CHIN HILLS.

BY

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TROPIDONOTUS VENNINGI (spec. nov.).

Three specimens were received which from the maxillary dentition I place with the genus *Tropidonotus*. The maxillary teeth are 29, the last two or three gradually enlarging; with no gap separating the enlarged from the preceding teeth. The enlarged teeth are not twice as long as the median teeth. The dentition thus accords with the type of *Nerodia*.

No. 1.—Length 2 feet and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the tail 9 inches.

Rostral touches 6 shields, all the sutures being subequal. *Internasals*.—A pair; the suture between them $\frac{3}{4}$ that between the præfrontal fellows, $\frac{3}{4}$ the internaso-præfrontal. *Præfrontals*.—A pair; the suture between them equals the præfronto-frontal; touching the internasal, postnasal, loreal, upper præocular and supraocular. *Frontal*.—The supraocular sutures rather longer than the rest. *Supraoculars*.—Length rather less than frontal, breadth less than half frontal. *Nasals* divided, in contact with the 1st and 2nd supralabials. *Loreal*.—One. *Præoculars*.—Two. *Postoculars*.—Three. *Temporal*.—One. *Supralabials*.—9, the 5th and 6th touching the eye on the left side, 8 with the 4th and 5th touching the eye on the right side. *Infralabials*.—The 7th is the last of the series, and in contact with three scales behind. *Sublinguals*.—Two pairs, the posterior longer than the anterior, and in contact with the 5th, 6th and 7th infralabials. *Costals*, in 19 rows in the whole body length: rather faintly keeled except in the last 3 rows where keels are absent. *Ventrals* 167. *Anal* divided. *Subcaudals* 124 divided except the last four which are entire. *Colour*.—Dark blackish-brown with an indistinct chequering of black streaks. A pale collar incomplete mesially. Head marbled with black and grey, all the labial sutures blackish. Belly black beneath the tail. and hind body, becoming more and more mottled with greyish towards the throat which is mostly a dirty white.

The second specimen agrees except in the following particulars:—The costals are 16 posteriorly owing to a confluence of the 3rd and

4th rows on the right side. The supralabials are 9 on both sides, the 5th and 6th touching the eye. The ventrals and subcaudals are 172 and 135, the latter all divided. The length is 2 feet 3 inches and the tail 9 inches.

Habitat.—Haka Chin Hills. Type is in the British Museum (Natural History) and co.-type in the Bombay Natural History Society's Collection.

A third specimen has since been obtained in which the ventrals and sub-caudals are 165 + 119.

One juv. sent to the British Museum.
